

**MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

President J. Finnerty opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Vice President R. Gross; Councilmembers, F. O'Boyle; D. Casole; K. Davis, C. Williams and W. Jabara Mayor F. Courtright, Alternate Solicitor A. DeAngelo and Borough Secretary/ Treasurer L. Noonan were also present.

Solicitor J. Fareri was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all followed by a moment of silence in memory of former Mayor and State Representative Joseph Battisto and Monroe County Judge Ronald Vican.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember K. Davis moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of October 6, 2014, as presented. Councilmember F. O'Boyle seconded. Motion carried with Councilmember C. Williams abstaining as she was absent.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT

President J. Finnerty discussed former Mayor and State Representative Joseph Battisto and how he was beneficial in obtaining funding for our current sewer authority and also he was responsible for getting the Borough a \$75,000.00 grant to interconnect all the water tanks between Coolbaugh Township and Mount Pocono Borough during the MtBE contamination. He also discussed Judge Ronald Vican and the number of years that he served as Monroe County's Head Judge.

President J. Finnerty discussed that the fugitive Eric Frein was captured last week.

President J. Finnerty stated that budget meetings will be held possibly November 19th and November 24th all at 7:00 P.M.

MAYOR

Mayor F. Courtright stated that tomorrow is Election Day and the polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Mayor F. Courtright noted that he attended the visitation and funeral mass for former Mayor and State Representative Joseph Battisto and noted that he enjoyed listening the many stories on his life and his many accomplishments and all the good that he did not only for the Borough of Mount Pocono, but Monroe County that were shared at his visitation and funeral mass, noting that he was a good man.

Mayor F. Courtright also stated that with the recent manhunt that many of the businesses in Barrett Township have been hurting and encouraged residents to spend a little money down there at the local shops, businesses and restaurants, because they were very badly affected by this manhunt.

Mayor F. Courtright noted that he is researching the Emergency Management Coordinator position that was suggested by Councilmember W. Jabara that he consider take on and when he is done with all of his research he will get back to Borough Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following cash report was given as follows:

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GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 468,528.45
PENN SECURITY GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT	20,712.71
CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT	48,433.11
BANNER BEAUTIFICATION ACCOUNT	1,957.37
STATE LIQUID FUELS	55,319.23
PARK & RECREATION FUND	10,670.83
PLANNING COMMISSION REIMB. FUND	52,067.68
ROAD FUND – GENERAL FUND	96,932.17
STORMWATER FUND	132,637.58
GENERAL FUND RESERVE PLGIT ACCOUNT	41,382.87
SANITATION FUND	20,097.40
ROUTE 940 CORRIDOR FUND	53,675.00
FIVE POINT INTERSECTION FUND	<u>326,593.48</u>

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 1,329,007.88**

Vice President R. Gross moved to pay and approve the bills as outlined in the Treasurer's Report dated Monday, November 3, 2014, as presented. Councilmember D. Casole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS TO BE PAID FROM THE GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT:

ACE Hardware	(small tools/ supplies)	\$ 354.49
Affordable Locksmith	(door lock/ new handles MPMA)	380.00
Blue Cross of NEPA	(health insurance)	8,080.54
Blue Ridge Cable	(phones)	390.49
Boston Mutual	(life/ disability insurance)	234.15
CPC Signs	(street signs)	726.47
Community Planning & Mgmt, LLC	(air pollution control ordinance)	80.00
H. Clark Connor	(November retainer PC Solicitor)	500.00
Cramer's	(wood post)	28.49
FNB Visa	(maint. tools/ supplies)	130.32
Fry's Plastic	(couplings & cable ties)	569.68
JoAnn Misuraca-Ficco	(reimb. Supplies)	132.66
G & K Services	(uniforms/ rug service)	444.78
Gilmore & Associates, Inc.	(engineer)	2,183.36
Gotta Go Potties	(portable toilets)	170.00
Shirley Lansdowne	(reimb. Photo developing)	175.10
Locust Ridge Quarry	(hot patch)	240.52
Lowe's	(plates & door sweep)	78.81
Miller's Automotive	(repairs to 1997 F350)	722.31
Mountain Landscaping	(contract – 3 rd payment of 3)	2,875.00
Mountain Services	(2006 Peterbilt inspection)	633.04
NAPA Auto parts	(vehicle parts)	65.89
Neopost	(postage meter)	109.79
PPL	(electric)	1,377.35
PA American Water Co.	(Boro bldg./ maint. garage)	744.71
PA Papery & Supply	(Kleenex, garbage bags, toilet paper)	251.25
PSAB	(2015 Membership Dues)	488.00
Panko Reporting	(ZHB transcript Pula Appeal & ZHB Steno)	970.05
Payrolls Unlimited	(payroll service)	100.00
PM Regional Police	(mortgage)	3,010.44
Pocono Record	(advertising – ZHB MPMA Variance)	105.80
Response Computers	(web page update)	70.00
Schaedler Yesco	LED light & fixture)	173.88
Selective Insurance	(insurances)	2,133.00

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Steele' Hardware	(maintenance small tools)	\$ 32.95
Sun Litho-Print, Inc.	(envelopes)	120.84
Sunoco (COSTARS)	(gas/ diesel)	886.32
ThyssenKrupp elevator	(elevator inspections)	159.74
US Bank	(copier)	317.06
United Concordia	(dental)	275.70
Verizon	(phone)	42.99
Verizon Wireless	(cell phones)	<u>122.29</u>

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 30,418.73**

BILLS TO BE PAID FROM THE GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT:

Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 10/08/14)	\$5,193.92
Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 10/15/14)	5,227.56
Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 10/22/14)	5,242.48
Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 10/29/14)	<u>5,142.43</u>

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 20,769.62**

BILLS TO BE PAID FROM THE STATE LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT:

PPL	(electric)	<u>\$ 248.14</u>
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Borough Secretary/ Treasurer L. Noonan discussed a request for canning and donation collection at the Five Points Intersection as we get requests every year from college students from Penn State who collect for their "THON".

After some discussion Borough Council stated that it does not want canning at the Five Points Intersection and we recommend they go to some of the shopping plazas like Shop-Rite, K-Mart and Wal-Mart.

Borough Secretary/ Treasurer L. Noonan recommended to Borough Council consider changing its meeting dates in the month of December as she is concerned that depending on when we actually get the certified assessment values from the County that we will not have adequate time to prepare the budget. As such she recommended postponing the meetings that were currently scheduled for Monday, December 1st and Monday, December 15th and hold them on Monday, December 8th and Monday, December 22nd and hold work sessions on December 1st and December 15th if needed.

In view of that Vice President R. Gross moved to advertise that the meeting dates have been changed from Monday, December 1st to December 8th and from Monday, December 15th and to Monday, December 22nd and to hold work session on December 1st and December 15th. Councilmember C. Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR

No report.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARC

Alternate Solicitor A. DeAngelo stated that Solicitor J. Fareri stated that both Barrett and Paradise Townships have agreed to the settlement fee of \$9,300.00 to exit PARC and that Solicitor J. Fareri will have any documentation needed at the next meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

LTAP Seminar – “Posting and Bonding of Local Roads”

There was no interest in attending this LTAP Seminar.

Knob Road – 6 Acre Parcel land Sale Proposal

Borough Council has been contacted to see if it would be interested in purchasing a 6 acre parcel off of Knob Road that connects to the current property owned by the Borough for Open Space property. The parcel is being offered to them at a price of \$25,000.00. It was noted that Borough Council had an appraisal of the property and the appraisal amount came in at \$48,000.00 for the parcel.

There was some discussion regarding the purchase and where the money would be coming from and also that there are other areas the money might be able to be used that need attention such as the Borough building roof and work on local roads.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilmember W. Jabara moved to purchase the 6 acre parcel of property off of Knob Road in the amount of \$25,000.00, noting that this property adjoins the 33 acre Open Space parcel owned by the Borough. Councilmember K. Davis seconded, noting that this property along with the current Open Space property offers the best vistas not only in the Borough but possibly all of Monroe County. Discussion on the motion, Vice President R. Gross noted that this property has some very steep slopes but many properties in the County that had been deemed unbuildable in the past are now being built upon and he felt that this was a good purchase. Councilmember F. O’Boyle suggested that the property owner share in the closing costs with the Borough. Motion went to a roll call vote: Vice President R. Gross, “Yes”; Councilmember W. Jabara, “Yes”; Councilmember F. O’Boyle, “Yes”; Councilmember K. Davis, “Yes”; Councilmember D. Casole, “Yes”; Councilmember C. Williams, “No”; and, President J. Finnerty, abstained. Motion carried 5, 1, and 1.

Traffic Concerns

There was some discussion regarding a request from Pocono Mountain Regional Police to have a study done or to notify PennDOT of some accidents that are happening at the Shop-Rite Gas Station with motorists trying to exit the gas station and head north on SR 611. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this with Councilmember W. Jabara noting that he will review the HOP Plans for this land development and we will proceed from there.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Planning

Councilmember D. Casole discussed the Air Quality Pollution Control Ordinance noting that she contacted Blue Mountain Environmental out of Valencia, PA, who has eighty (80) years’ experience for air pollution control and they are willing to attend a Planning Commission meeting and give a free onsite consultation. She also noted that she has sent the proposed Air Quality Pollution Control Ordinance to Michael Bedrin with DEP; however he has not gotten back to her with his review of the Ordinance.

There was some discussion regarding the Air Quality Pollution Control Ordinance and also the monitoring fees and cost associated with that and who would be responsible to pay those costs. It was agreed that Borough Council would wait until we heard back from DEP on this matter.

Stormwater

Councilmember W. Jabara noted that UGI knocked over the pedestrian signal at SR 940 and the K-Mart Plaza entrance and they also filled the swale. He also noted that he has notified them that these two (2) things have to be corrected. He further noted that they hope to be done on Heath Lane sometime tomorrow, November 4th.

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Utilities

Councilmember F. O'Boyle noted that the bridge loan for the bank closed this past week. He also noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014, and that the Zoning Hearing Board variance decision should be given on November 11, 2014.

Water

Councilmember D. Casole noted that she spoke with Dave Altmiller of PAWC regarding the fire hydrant and that the agreements were forwarded to him for their repairs of the fire hydrant. She also noted that she will be back in contact with them and is hoping this happens as soon as possible.

Streets

Councilmember W. Jabara noted that with the strong winds that we have been having there are some signs down and the road crew has been busy putting those signs back up and they are preparing the trucks for the upcoming snow season. He discussed, requesting that Regional Police on a timely and regular basis forward accident data to the Borough on any accident that may happen in the Borough for us to keep on file should we need to request reimbursement from insurance companies for damages to traffic signals, signs, etc.

There was discussion at length regarding several accidents that happened on SR 611 and Kinney Avenue recently which shut down SR 611 and that there may be a need to review on street parking along Pocono Boulevard.

Buildings

Councilmember F. O'Boyle noted that the Borough building roof has been patched for the winter; the company had to use three (3) buckets of silver coating. He also noted that the road crew patched the railings and the doors and that he and Councilmember W. Jabara noted that the circulator motor for the oil burner is making a vibrating noise and he is working on correcting that.

Budget and Finance

Mayor F. Courtright noted that he wanted everyone on Borough Council to be aware that there's almost a definite possibility that the Regional Police are going to be requesting an increase this year over last year. He explained that this will be the first time in approximately three (3) years that there has been an increase in their budget and he stated that the reasoning for this increase is because of the workers' compensation insurance increases.

Recreation

Councilmember K. Davis noted that there was no meeting this month.

Councilmember W. Jabara noted that he requested a list of deficiencies for the baseball field behind the Borough building.

It was noted that the new fencing at the Deerfield/ Oak Park was installed.

Personnel

No report.

Regional Police

Mayor F. Courtright noted that the next meeting is being held on November 13th, at Tobyhanna Township and he will check with the Police on getting the accident data. He further noted that they received a list of questions from Coolbaugh Township in regards to the budget and he added that it's a possibility of 7.5% increase in the

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first draft and that that's with no new hires, that would be 7% or equates to approximately an additional \$47,000.00 for the Borough and if they had two (2) new hires that would be a 10% increase which equates to approximately \$65,000.00 to the Borough.

Regional EMS

Mayor F. Courtright noted that they met last month and that they are purchasing a new ambulance with a delivery expected in March and they submitted an LSA Grant for a generator for their building.

COG

Councilmember W. Jabara noted that the dinner meeting was held last month and that was the last meeting for this year.

Open Space

No report.

PARC

No report.

Five Points Intersection/ Traffic

No report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dawn Misuraca & Vinny Misuraca, 13 Devonshire Lane, discussed the Official Mount Pocono Facebook Page and a recent comment that was made on that site by the Mayor in regards to the Eric Frien capture and Trick or Treat.

There was some discussion regarding the Official Mount Pocono Facebook Page and the comment.

Mayor F. Courtright noted that it was a joke, however maybe it was not well received. He explained that he commented on that post and he thought he put everybody at ease.

Councilmember K. Davis, Councilmember D. Casole and Vice President R. Gross all commented that they are not in favor of having a Facebook Page.

Shirley Lansdowne, Center Avenue, stated that she was not at last month's meeting, but in reading the minutes she noted that Oscar Lollis has decided not to be reappointed to the Planning Commission. She thanked Mr. Lollis for his many years of service, noting that he will be missed.

There being no further business or any further public participation coming before the Board, Councilmember K. Davis moved to adjourn. Councilmember C. Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Noonan, Borough Secretary